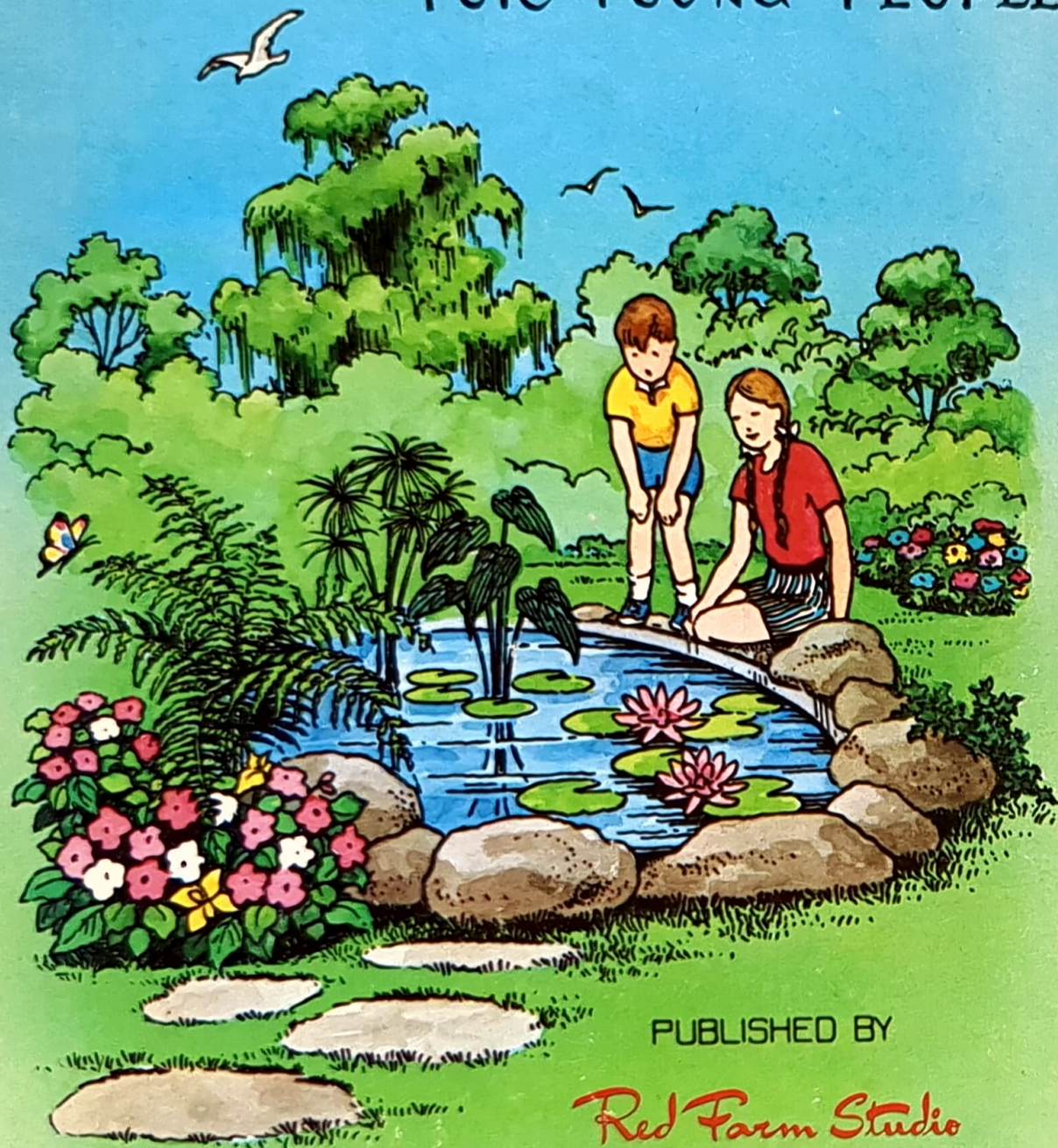


Kim's

PLANT AND GARDEN BOOK

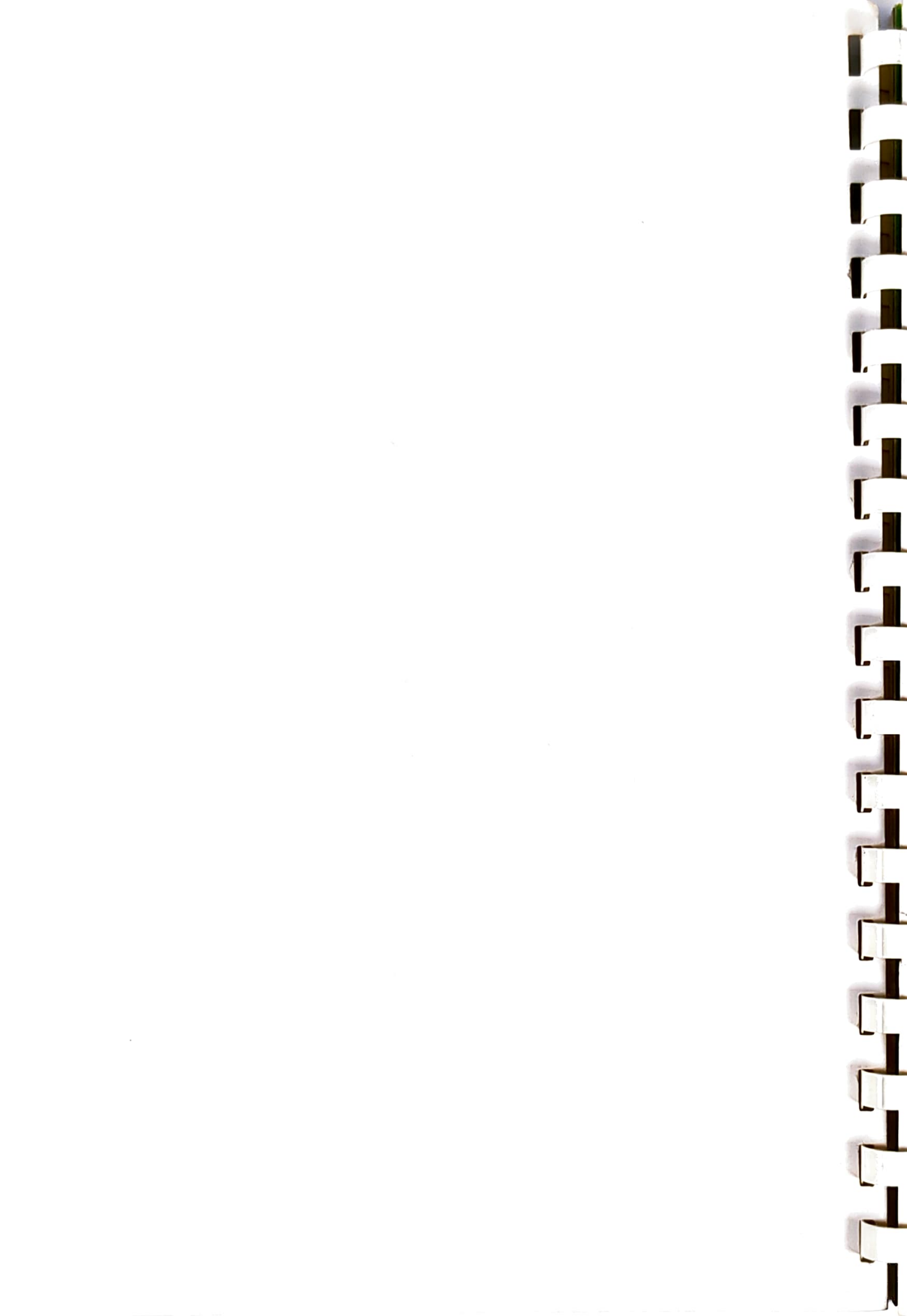
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



PUBLISHED BY

Red Farm Studio

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MEREDITH A. SCOTT



Kim's PLANT and GARDEN BOOK

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED
BY
MEREDITH A. SCOTT



SELECTED PLANTS, FLOWERS AND
VEGETABLES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
TO GROW

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY

Red Farm Studio
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

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Kim's
**PLANT
AND
GARDEN
BOOK FOR
YOUNG
PEOPLE**

THIS BOOK
BELONGS TO



HAPPINESS

IS A
PLANT



OR A
FLOWER





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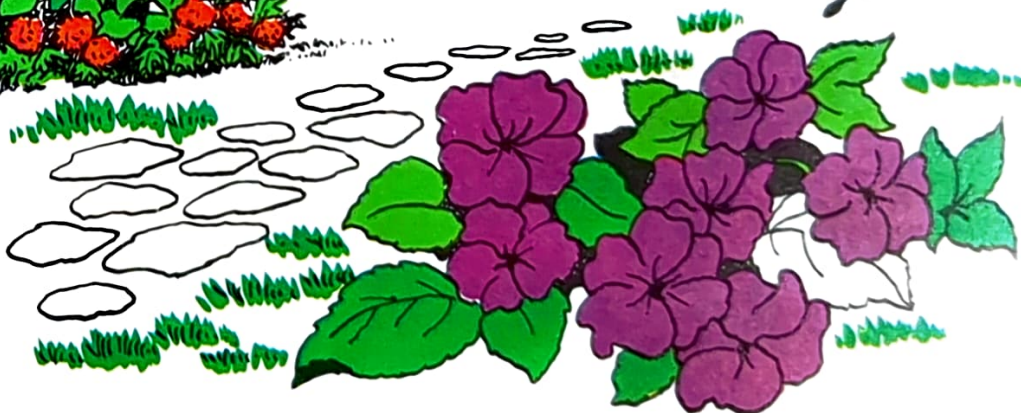


HELPFUL HINTS

INDEX



NOTES



Hi! My name is Kim!

Guess what. I've found a new hobby!
It's gardening --- both indoors and outdoors.
Have you ever tried gardening? It's really fun!

You don't need much space. Just a small
corner of the garden or a couple of potted plants
in a bright window can give you enjoyment.

Just think of the composition you could write
on gardening! In addition to the many "how-to"
compositions, you could tell about plants and
flowers found in other parts of the world; or you
can describe plants as room decorations; or
explain about those that are easier to grow and why.

If you want to grow plants and flowers
from seeds, there are easy to follow directions in
my book. There are also hints to remember when
you go to a garden shop to buy a plant, either as
a gift for a friend or for yourself; or for when
you are given one as a gift.

I've tried growing many of the plants and
vegetables described in this book. At times,
I've been lucky and things have grown well,
at others not, but I love gardening and I hope
you enjoy it, too!

Kim

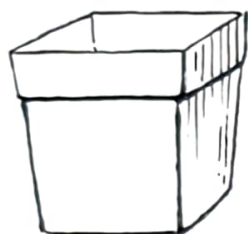
GOOD GARDENING MANNERS and SAFETY MEASURES

1. Never leave a rake or a hand cultivator tines upward on the ground. A person might be injured by stepping on the implement.
2. Stay away from various insecticides, fertilizers, sprays, etc. Only grown-ups should use them, and then only according to directions and with care.
3. Never chew or eat a bulb, or any part of a plant, flower or shrub, and never let a toddler do so.
4. Some plants like an occasional "misting." Better do it in the kitchen or in the bathroom, *not* near your Mom's curtains or draperies.
5. Protect the finish of window sills or table tops by using special window sill trays, or saucers under flower pots. Wipe up any drops of water or moisture, and keep the surface dry.
6. Never leave a flower pot or container on the sill of an open window, or on a porch or balcony railing. You might lose your plant — and do a lot of damage to someone or something down below.



A FEW ITEMS YOU MIGHT NEED FOR AN INDOOR GARDEN

A small trowel is useful
for digging and transplanting.



Small plantlets do best
for a while in small pots.

A small plastic "trellis" will support a drooping plant.



Some plants, but not all,
like an occasional fine
spray of water from a
"mister."

An ordinary pitcher or
jar will substitute as a
watering pot. Remember
to water beneath the
leaves, and water in the
morning rather than at
night.



A MESSAGE TO GROWN-UPS FROM THE PUBLISHER

The plants and flowers described in this book have been selected because they are relatively safe for children to tend and enjoy. With proper precautions gardening can be among the safest and most rewarding of children's hobbies.

Children who are of an age to be interested in gardening are probably old enough to realize that to chew or suck on any part of any flower or plant might be very dangerous. Parents, of course, know that pesticides, fungicides, insecticides and other potentially hazardous chemical compounds or preparations should be kept in safe places and used only by adults.

The scope of this book is necessarily on a very simplified basis. The aim of the book is to acquaint children with gardening, with the beauty and wonder of blossom and leaf, and with the pleasure of watching plants and flowers grow.

The information contained in the book is based on the author's years of experience with gardening, indoors and out; on bits of knowledge gained by browsing through countless seed catalogues and many articles and books, on plants and gardening, and on helpful hints shared by gardening friends.



INTRODUCTION TO HOUSE PLANTS

Nowadays almost anyone can have a "green thumb". It is so much easier to raise house plants than it used to be. For example, there are packaged, ready-mixed soils that you can buy in garden shops, or in stores that have garden supplies. There is a special type of soil for starting seeds, another for growing plants, and still others for different types of plants such as cacti or African Violets. Always read the directions on the package. For certain plants you may need to add a little *clean* sand, or vermiculite.

If you want to dig up a Begonia or a Coleus from the garden in the Fall to pot as a house plant, it is better to use a packaged soil mix rather than the garden soil, since it will be cleaner and free from insects or weeds.

A difficult question, even for experienced gardeners, is how much or how little to water a plant. Now there's a gadget you can buy that will tell you. At the bottom of it there's a prong to be pressed into the soil to measure the moisture. At the top there's a dial with a needle which will show how much moisture that particular plant already has, and how much or how little more it may need.

Giving plants enough light can be difficult at times, too. This problem can be solved if you use "light gardening" which has been developed in recent years. "Light garden" units of various types are pictured in garden catalogues. Now it is possible to raise beautiful plants in any room in the house, even a room facing the north. (The only problem is that "light gardens" can be expensive!)

If you are a beginner, however, you really only need a sunny window and one or two plants that are easy to grow. If they are your very own, and if you study their needs and help them to grow big and beautiful, they will give you a great deal of enjoyment.

SPIDER PLANT or AIRPLANE PLANT

from
Africa



This is a fun plant, and one that is easy to grow. Sooner or later you will find that the plant has produced several new plantlets, each one gracefully suspended from the end of a long drooping stem. The plantlets remind one of dangling spiders, or of little planes in flight.

Cut a plantlet from its stem, pot it in a sandy soil mixture, and you will have a gift for a friend.

Water _____ **Water only when plant has become nearly dry.**

Light _____ **Bright to moderate light. Perhaps morning or late afternoon sun.**

Misc. _____ **Should grow under ordinary house conditions.**

BEGONIAS

(Origin — Worldwide)

There are many different Begonias. Perhaps the easiest to grow is an old favorite, the Wax Begonia, so called because leaves and blossoms glisten with a pretty sheen. Blossoms can be pink, white or red; leaves green or mahogany.

Keep your Begonia plant bushy and in bloom by cutting back any long stems. Also keep faded flowers pinched off.

Water

Keep soil evenly moist.
Do not overwater.

Light

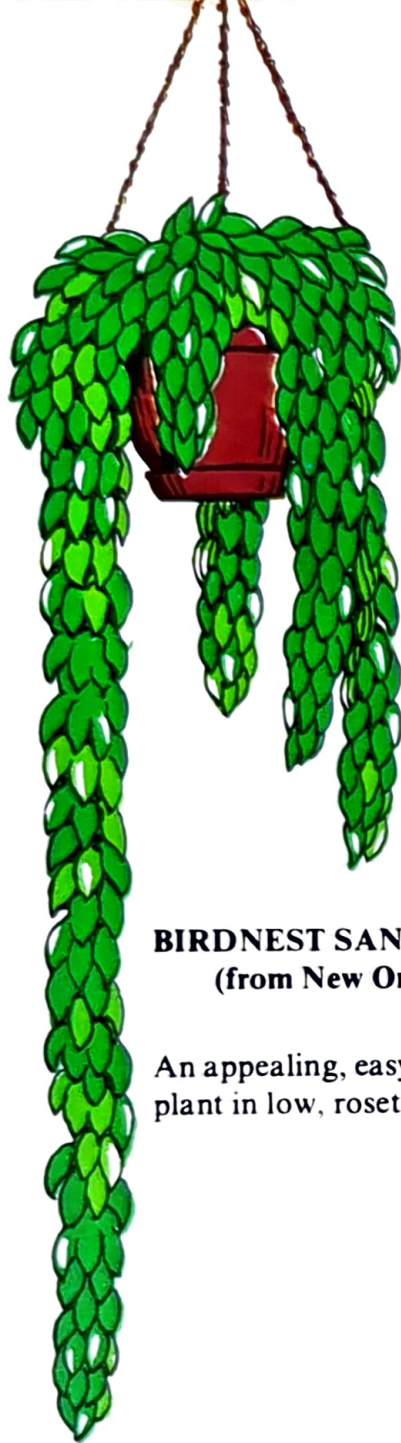
A sunny exposure during the winter.
Less sun in summer.

Misc.

Usually grows well indoors, with
temperatures between 60° and 70°.



You can make many plants out of one, with a Begonia. Take a stem cutting from the bottom part of the plant, 2 to 3 inches long. Remove the lowest leaves and any blossoms. Keep the stem in clean water until you see roots an inch or so in length. Then place the new plant in a 2" pot with potting soil that is suitable for cuttings and seedlings, obtainable from a garden shop.



DONKEY TAIL
 Also known as
Burro Tail, Horse Tail, Lamb's Tail
 (from Mexico)

The stems of a Donkey Tail, with their short, thick, blue-green leaves, can grow very long, sometimes down to five feet which could be interesting. The stems break easily. If that happens, pot the broken stem and maybe a new plant will grow.

BIRDNEST SANSEVERIA
 (from New Orleans)

An appealing, easy-to-live-with plant in low, rosette form.



Water

Let both plants dry between waterings. Do not overwater.

Light

They prefer bright light but adjust to average house lighting.

If you are absent-minded about watering, these two plants won't mind — up to a point, of course.

JADE PLANT (from South Africa)



The Jade plant is a well-known houseplant, grown for its foliage. It has heavy stems and thick oval-shaped leaves. With care the plant will become an interesting addition to the household, lasting for several years and growing into a small "tree" about 2' tall.

Try rooting a piece of stem in a pot of damp sand.

Miniature Jade plants are similar, but smaller and more delicate in appearance.

Water

Water thoroughly but only when the plant has become dry. Do not overwater.

Light

Good light but preferably a filtered light such as you would find beside a sheer curtain.

You could leave this plant alone while you go on vacation. It should survive for a month without water.



CHINESE EVERGREEN (from tropical Asia)

This is a plant with which you could grow up. They are said to last 35 to 50 years (with some care, of course).

Water

A lot or a little, but the soil should have good drainage.

Light

Will grow in low light.

Feel the leaves and you will find that they seem leathery
They are light green or silvery with different patterns of darker green.
The plant should grow for you even in a north room or a dim hallway.



PEPEROMIA
or Baby Rubber plant
(from Central America and Brazil)

There are two types of Baby Rubber plants. The variegated type is the more interesting because each of the thick, somewhat rounded leaves has a different pattern of gray-green and cream.



Wipe the leaves clean with a damp cloth or sponge about once a month.

Water	Let the soil dry between waterings.
Light	Bright to moderate light without direct sunshine.
Misc.	A peperomia does well in average house conditions.

COLEUS or Painted Leaves (from Java)

A Coleus is one of the most colorful plants you can own. Two or three together in a container can be spectacular with their variegated leaves in many hues of the rainbow. The plant should be cut back regularly.

Water

Keep a Coleus evenly moist.

Light

Place in a bright area.

Misc.

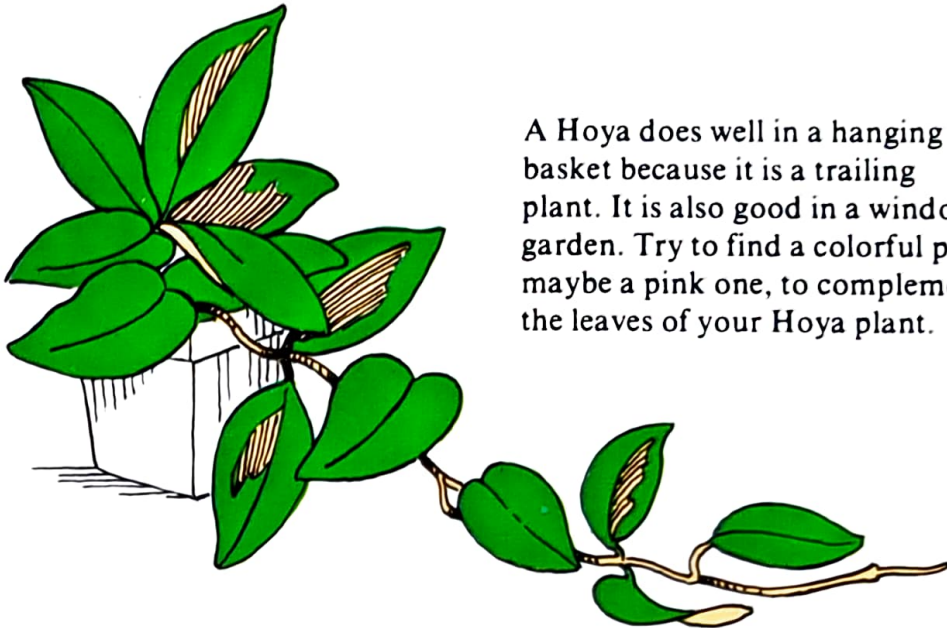
Suitable for both indoor and outdoor gardens. A Coleus can adjust to house temperatures.

You can acquire new Coleus plants with 2" cuttings. Remove the lower leaves and root the stems in damp sand or in a small jar of water. Keep the sand damp.



HOYA PLANT

(from Australia and South China)



A Hoya does well in a hanging basket because it is a trailing plant. It is also good in a window garden. Try to find a colorful pot, maybe a pink one, to complement the leaves of your Hoya plant.

The leaves may have solid colors but often they are variegated with interesting patterns of green and cream or green and pink.

Water

Water well and let dry.

Light

Partial shade or diffused light.
Strong sunshine may burn the leaves.

You may have a long wait for your Hoya plant to bloom but when it does the flowers will surprise you. They will look like a cluster of wax stars with maroon star-like centers.



STARLIGHT PLANT (from Central and South America)

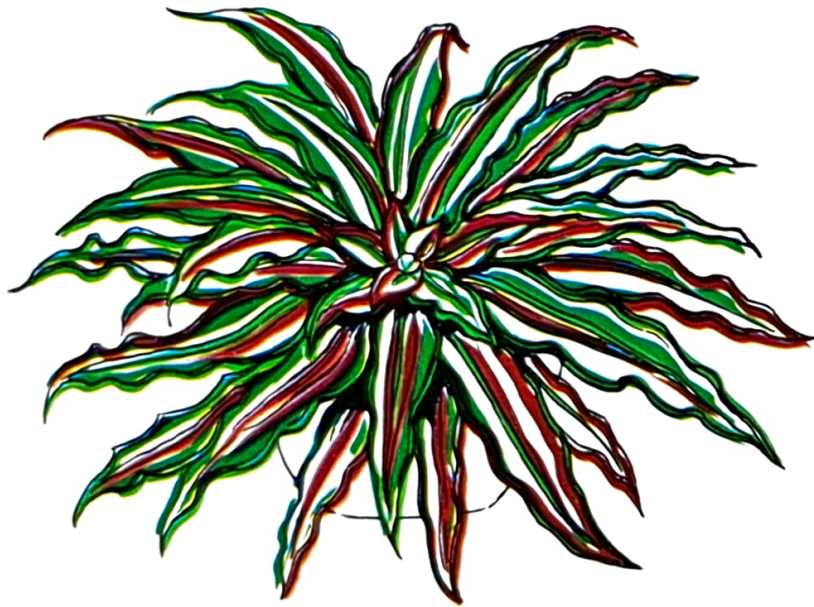
If you would like to own a plant that is unusual, interesting and attractive, yet easy to take care of, try a Starlight plant. Not all nurseries carry them, but they are sometimes pictured in horticultural magazines or plant catalogues, where they are listed among "Bromeliads."

Water

Water weekly. Mist once or twice a week.

Light

The plant does best in a bright light.



The leaves of a Starlight plant are like striped ribbons. The colors are mainly salmon, bronze, brown or pink, with green stripes, that vary from leaf to leaf and from plant to plant. New plantlets are produced from the base of the mother plant, and they can be potted as soon as they are about 1" long. Think of the nice birthday presents the little Starlight plants would make.



GERANIUMS (from S. Africa)

Geraniums are among the most popular of all houseplants. They are grown in many parts of the world. There are hundreds of different types but the best-known are "Zonal" and "Ivy-leaved." The Ivy-leaved Geranium makes a pretty hanging plant. Geranium colors include red, pink, white and salmon.

Water

Water thoroughly but let the soil dry somewhat between waterings.

Light

Very bright light with four hours or more of direct sunshine.

Make a cutting 3 to 5 inches long from your Geranium plant. Remove the lower leaves. Let the cutting dry overnight. Next, place the cutting in moist sand or vermiculite. (Garden shops sell vermiculite.) Keep it moist and out of the sun for about 3 weeks. In 4 to 6 weeks the new Geranium should be ready to plant in a small pot.



PONY TAIL PALM (from Mexico and Texas)

This is an unusual plant but it is easy to grow as a houseplant, eventually becoming quite large. Then it will be a "conversation piece" in your living room.

Water

Water well, but let dry between each watering.

Light

A bright sunny area is best but a little less light will do.



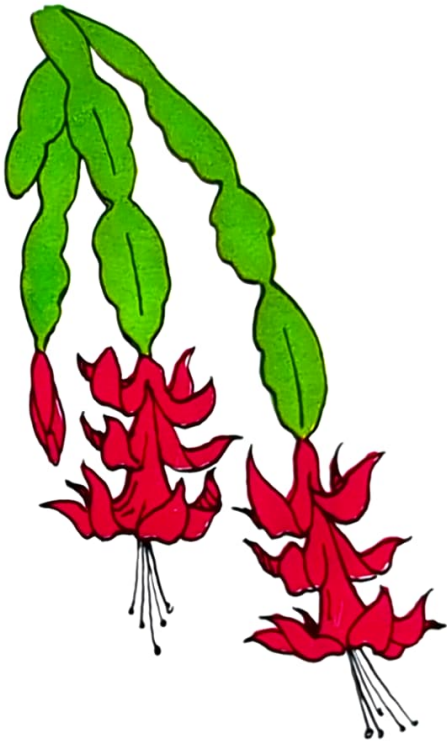
This plant is sometimes known as the Mexican Bottle Plant because the stem grows out of a bulb that is shaped almost like a bottle. It is also called Elephant Foot.

Since it is a "succulent" it can go for as long as a month without water. A succulent is a plant that can store water in its stem and leaves.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

(from many parts of the world, especially
desert regions)

Almost everyone knows about the Christmas Cactus but how many people have tried to raise a "Living Stone?" These two plants are among thousands in the cactus and succulent families. Cacti and succulents grow in an unbelievable variety of shapes, colors and sizes. The most surprising thing is to see an unexpected flower emerge from a cactus plant. Then you can understand why deserts are so beautiful when they are in bloom.

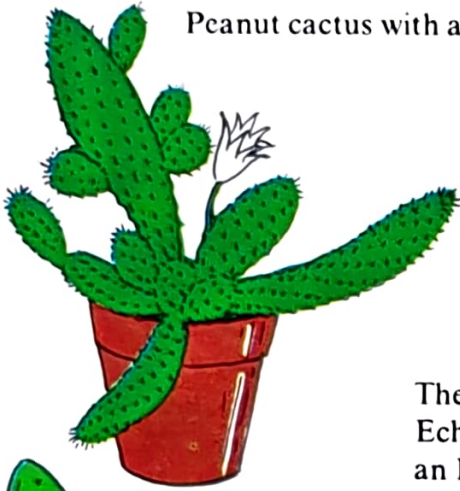


During most of the year the Christmas Cactus has nothing but odd-looking leaves. In bloom, however, it can brighten gray November or December days with beautiful cascading flowers which may be pink, red, white or even purple. The Christmas Cactus is used as a table plant or as a hanging plant.

Living Stones look just like stones, maybe 2" wide. They are from the African desert where they have adapted themselves to hot, dry desert winds by growing, low, thick and round. Then, too, because they look like stones, browsing animals by-pass them for other vegetation.



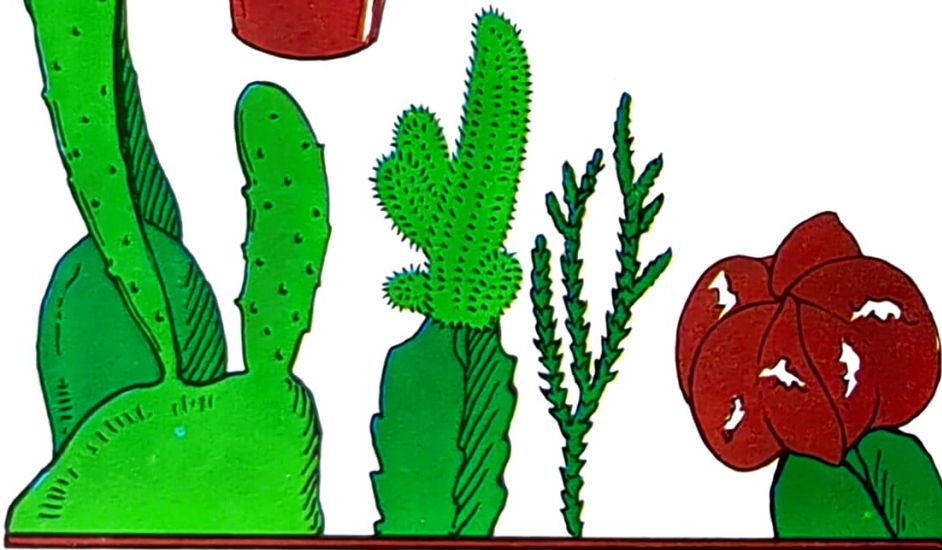
Peanut cactus with a blossom



The thick-leaved succulent called Echeveria has a rosette form. When an Echeveria has grown too long-legged break off the upper part of the stem and place it in moist sand where it should take root and grow again as a new, compact plant.



Hen and Chickens,
a succulent with new plantlets



Most cacti and succulents like bright light and comparatively little water. However, during their short growing season (which is usually summer for cacti and winter for succulents) they will need more water. Cacti with sharp spines should be *avoided*, especially if you want to plant them yourself in a dish garden.

NORFOLK ISLAND PINE (from Norfolk Island, near New Zealand)

On its native island, a Norfolk pine can grow 200 feet tall. In your home a height of 5 feet is the most you can hope for, and that will take a long while. Give a Norfolk pine plenty of room for its branches. A bent branch or two can spoil the shape of the plant. A Norfolk pine can make a nice table-top Christmas tree, decorated with tiny ornaments.

Water _____

Let the plant get almost dry between waterings.

Light _____

A moderately bright light.





DISH GARDENS

If you need scope for your creative urge have fun with dish gardens. So many different kinds are possible. You could use your cactus plants and succulents to make small "desert gardens." Some people enjoy miniature gardens — really small. They use a teacup or an egg cup, or even a *thimble*!

Another idea is to create imaginative "landscapes" or "woodlands" and place tiny ceramic or plastic animals here and there. At an aquarium shop you could buy little castles or bridges to use in a dish garden. How about a tiny pool of water? You could paint a metal jar cap, about 2½" in diameter, with waterproof paint. Light blue, light green or aqua would be the best colors. Then surround the little pool with small stones. Make a winding path leading to the pool with very small pebbles.

A Carissa plant and a Miniature Jade plant make oriental-looking trees to use with a castle.

If there are no drainage holes you should put about an inch of gravel or small pebbles in the bottom of your dish garden. For a "desert garden" use garden soil with an equal amount of sand (not beach sand). Water lightly once a week, or even every two weeks. Let the soil dry between waterings. To complete your desert garden the top layer could be sand or pebbles. Add one or two small pieces of driftwood, or a couple of interesting stones for decoration.

For dish gardens other than desert gardens use a packaged potting mix, or good garden soil.

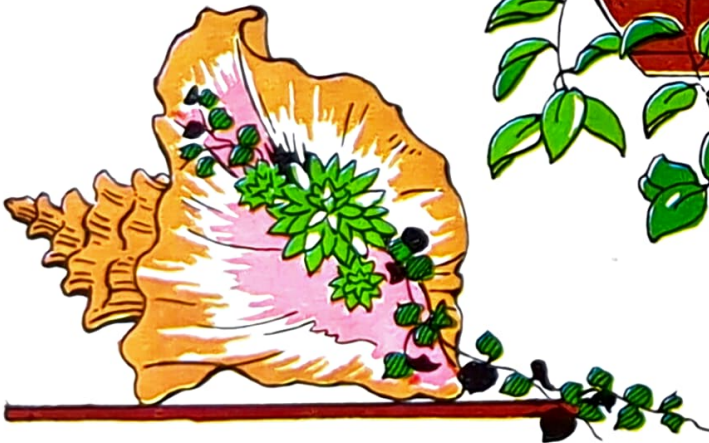
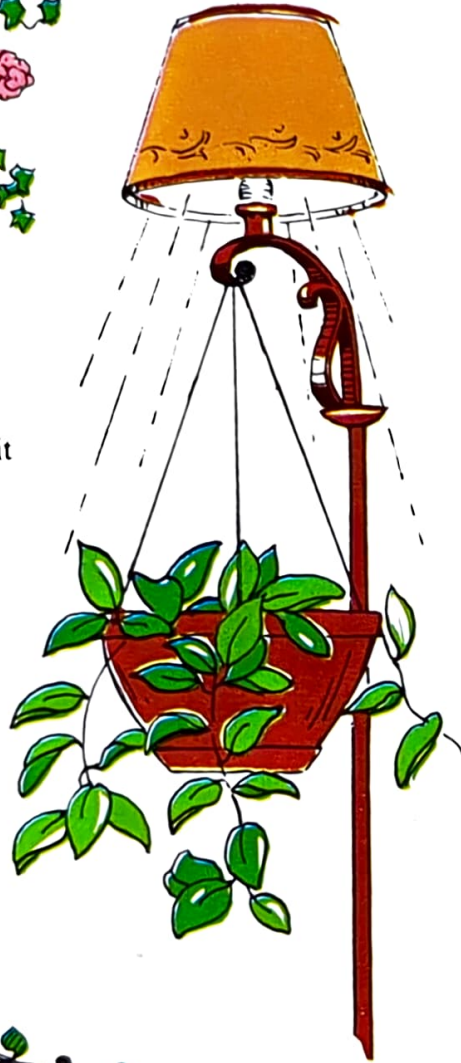
The tiny plantlets produced from Hen and Chickens are a good size for dish gardens and miniature gardens. A small and dainty Rosary Vine is pretty for a trailing effect.

WAYS TO DISPLAY PLANTS



A swivel-type bracket mounted over a sunny window supports a hanging plant (not too heavy!) that can do wonders for a room.

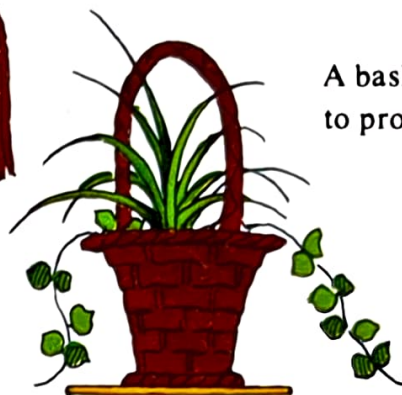
There are combination lamp and plant holders. The light will help the plant to grow, the more so if it is a special "grow-light."



Seashells make unique planters. You might use Hen and Chickens and a plantlet or two, and perhaps a small Rosary Vine. Plant the roots firmly in the crevice but try not to injure them.



Someone who is very clever at crocheting or macrame could make a flower pot into a hanging planter.



A basket needs a layer of heavy plastic to protect the wicker from dampness.

For outdoor planters use clay pots grouped together, a redwood or plastic tub, or even an about-to-be discarded hibachi.



You don't have to buy planters. Cover an empty coffee can with pretty wrapping paper or a light-weight place mat. (Ask first!) An arts and crafts shop could probably give you other ideas. Look around the house for interesting small jars or boxes about to be thrown away. A china frog in the kitchen that holds a scouring pad could become a planter — if your Mom is through with it.



INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR FLOWER GARDENS

ANNUALS must be planted from seeds each year.

PERENNIALS, once planted, grow and bloom year after year, with proper care, of course.

Planting a garden is something like painting a picture, except that a garden is so much bigger! You should do some planning ahead of time. Annuals can vary in height from 6" to 6'. Plant the low ones in the front part of the garden and the taller ones in the back.

It's good to have both perennials and annuals in the garden. Chrysanthemums are perennials. So are Sweet William, Grass Pinks, and Astilbe among many others. Perennials give you a head start because when they pop up from the ground in the Spring, the garden will seem to be well under way.

With annuals you can try new colors or new varieties each year, and that is fun.

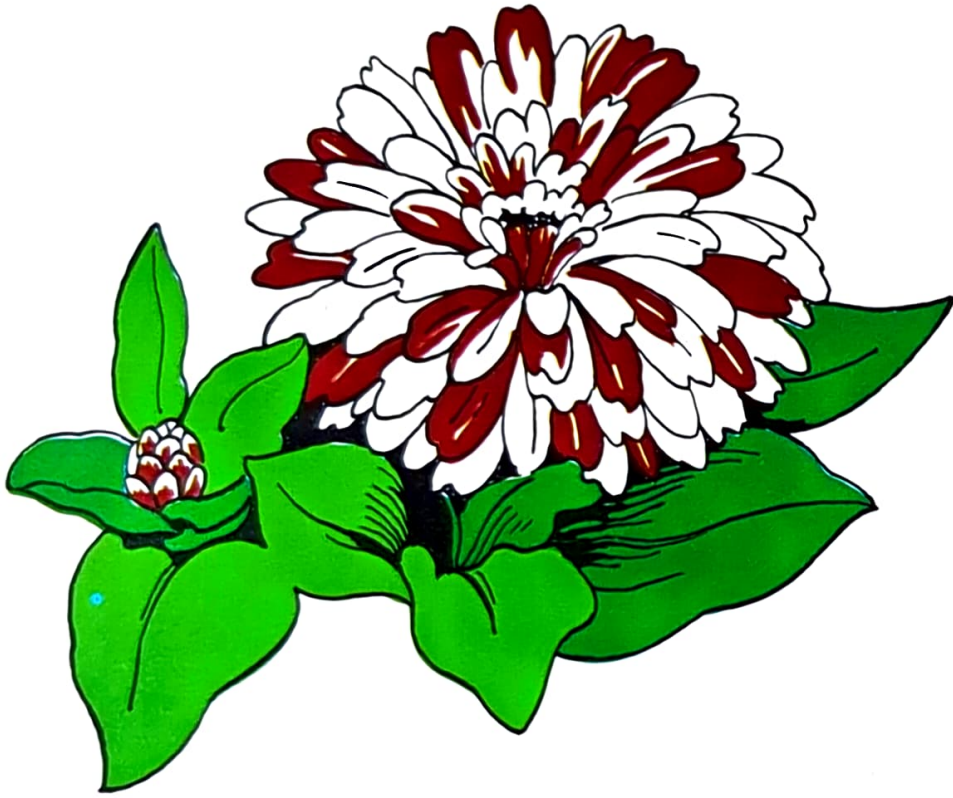
Think about color schemes; most flowers blend well together. Beds of Zinnias or Snapdragons with their various colors can be beautiful. Blue Ageratum, pink Petunias and white Sweet Alyssum make a lovely combination. So do blue Ageratum and lemon yellow Marigolds.

Gardeners need a lot of patience. With only a few exceptions, you have to wait until all danger of frost is past before sowing seeds or planting seedlings.

ZINNIAS

(from N. and S. America and Mexico)

Zinnias are among the easiest of all annuals to grow. They range in height from 3 to 4 feet with flowers 5 to 6 inches across, down to miniature plants only 4" high with 1¼" flowers.



Culture _____

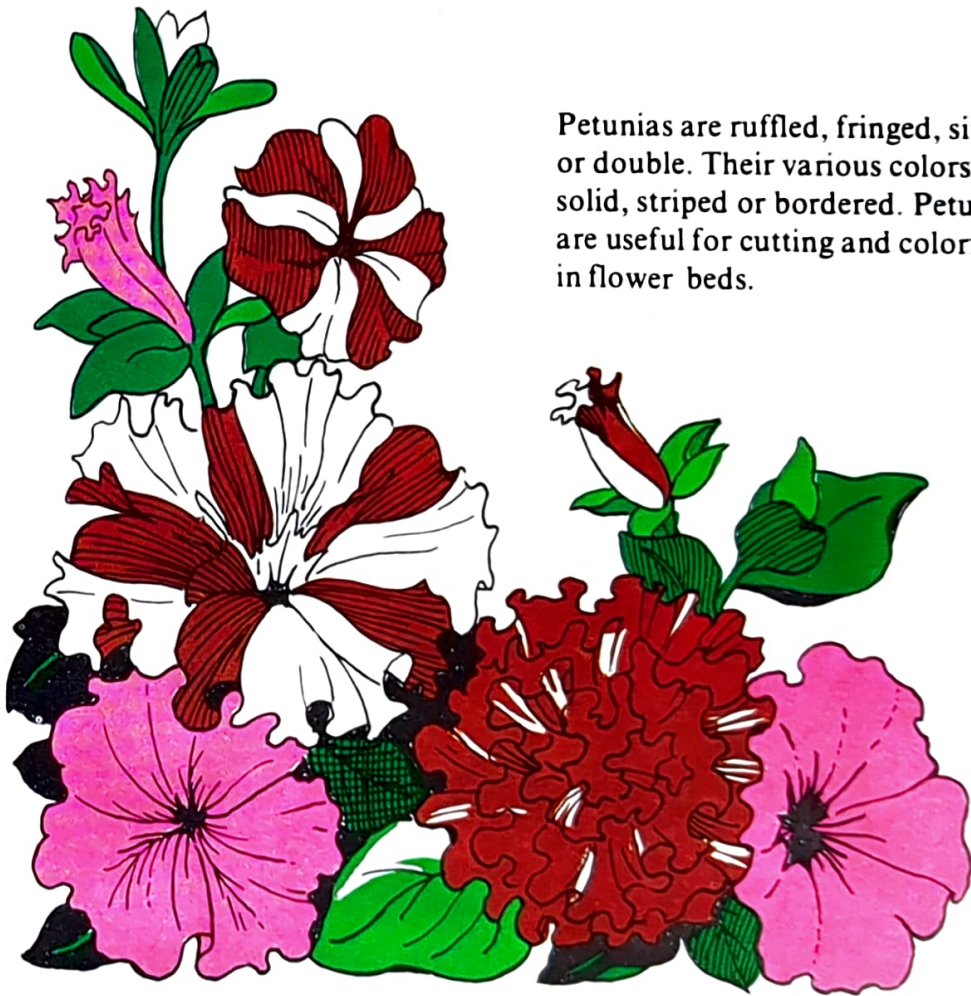
Sow seeds where they should grow or buy seedlings from a nursery. Zinnias like full sun, but a little shade is all right. They prefer a light, rich soil.

PETUNIAS (from Argentina)

The Petunias of today have evolved from the original ones into a variety of sizes and colors. A nurseryman can probably grown them from the very fine seeds better than you can , so go to a garden shop and have fun choosing the colors and types you want.

Culture _____

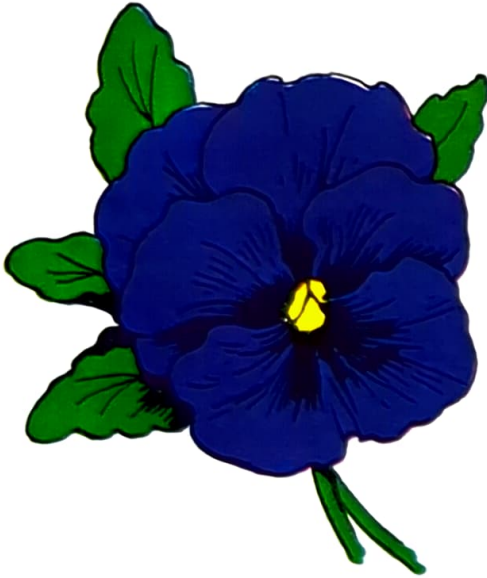
Petunias usually thrive under almost any conditions, but they need plenty of water. Cut back faded flowers and older stems.



Petunias are ruffled, fringed, single or double. Their various colors are solid, striped or bordered. Petunias are useful for cutting and colorful in flower beds.

PANSIES

(from various temperate regions)



Choosing pansy plants at a nursery in the Spring is something to look forward to. The choice is fun, but difficult because there are so many different shades and "faces". Velvet-petalled pansies make one of the first bouquets of Spring.

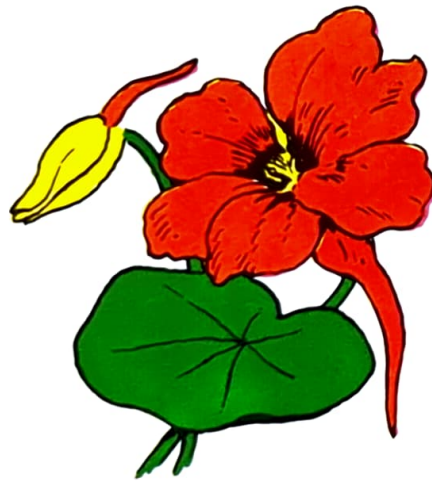
Culture _____

Rich to ordinary soil. Pansies like some sunshine, but also a little light shade. Keep the blossoms well picked, and really cut the plants back when they become "leggy".

NASTURTIUMS

(from Peru to Mexico)

Nasturtiums in brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow, are colorful in the garden and good for cutting. There are dwarf and climbing varieties.



Culture _____

Sow seeds in a sunny location. Nasturtiums like a somewhat dry and rather poor soil.

MARIGOLDS (from Mexico)



Marigolds have been a popular flower in the garden for more than 400 years. Though some varieties are called French or African Marigolds they originally came from Mexico. New varieties have been cultivated by seedsmen; now you have a wide choice of color, type and height. Some are 3' high with 4" flowers, others are dwarf with small flowers. All are colorful in shades of orange, red or yellow.

Culture _____

Marigolds like the hot mid-summer sun. They should grow in almost any soil. Raise from seed or buy seedlings from a nursery.



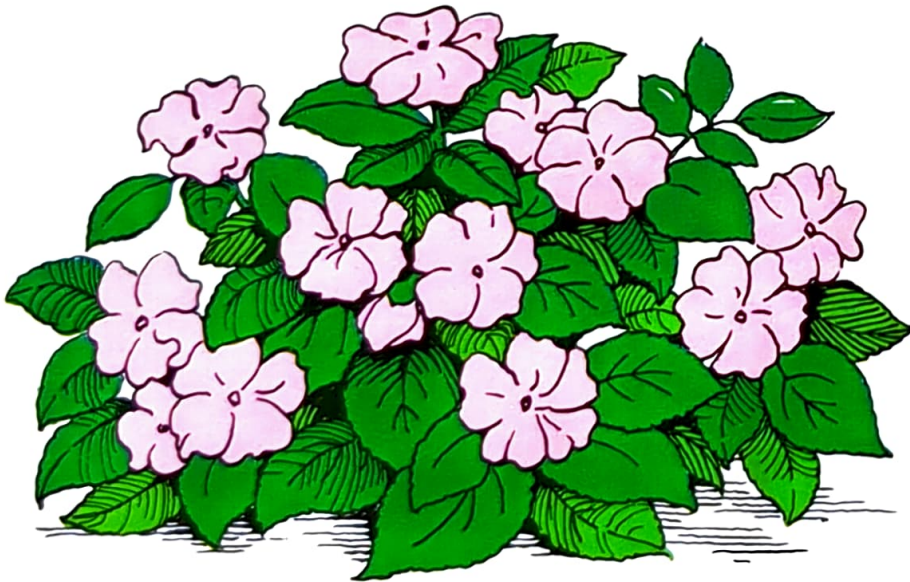
IMPATIENS
(from Zanzibar, on the E. coast
of Africa)

Impatiens is a good plant for colorful bedding in the garden, or for a hanging basket, but it doesn't last in a bouquet. You might try making a cutting from a healthy stem. Let it root in constantly moist but not wet sand. Maybe you will have a new flowering plant to bring indoors for the Winter.

Culture _____

Plants like a rich, light loam and half shade, though they welcome early morning sun. Too much water causes stems to rot. To keep plants bushy pinch them back.

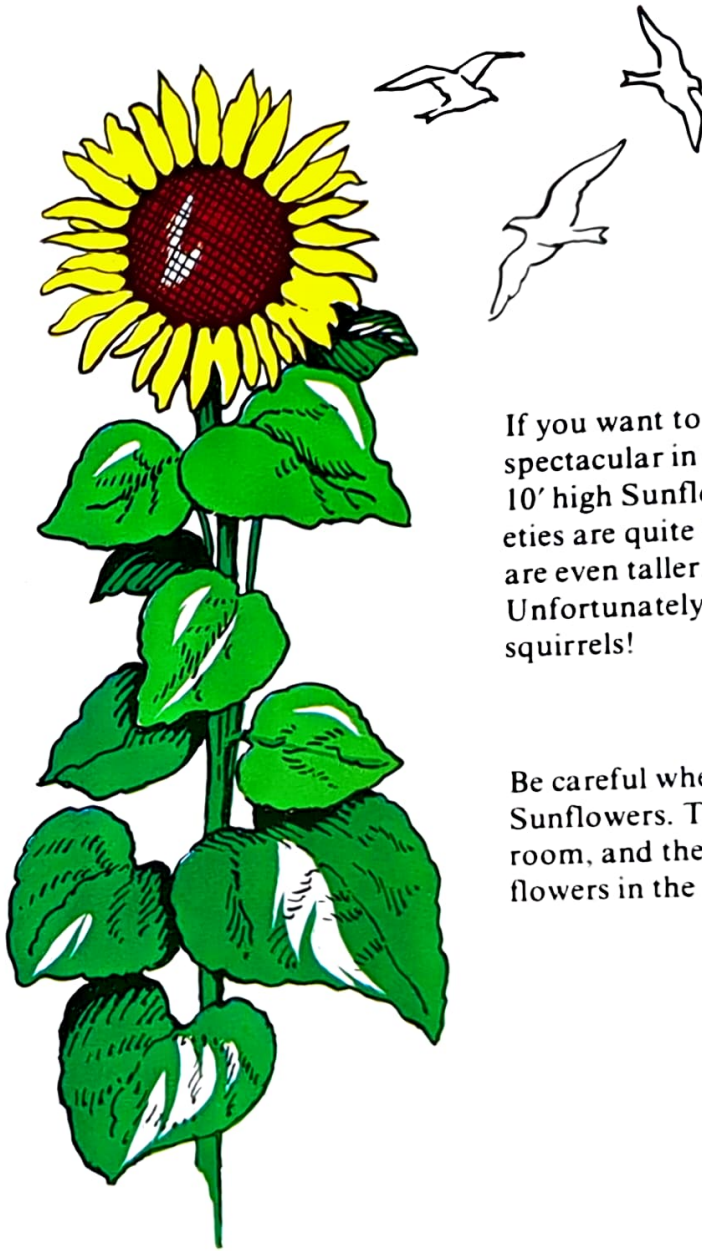
It takes know-how to plant and tend to the very fine seeds of Impatiens. Your own impatience will be rewarded by buying husky little plants at a garden shop.



SUNFLOWERS (native to N. America)

Culture

Plant the seeds where they are to grow. Full sun is necessary.



If you want to do something really spectacular in a garden try raising 10' high Sunflowers. (Not all varieties are quite so tall. Others are even taller. Birds love the seeds. Unfortunately so do the unwelcome squirrels!

Be careful where you plant the huge Sunflowers. They need plenty of room, and they might put other flowers in the shade.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS (from the Orient)

In late Summer, when your garden may look scraggly and somewhat empty in places, you might want to buy a pot or two of outdoor chrysanthemums. They will add new life to the garden with their warm Fall colors of yellow, red, bronze or salmon.

Plant the "mums" in the garden, and they should grow for many years. Every year or two in the Spring, dig up the plants. Separate the new side stalks from the original woody growth. Replant the side stalks only, to keep the plants young and healthy.

Some types of mums are pompon -shaped; others are daisy-like. One type of spider mum has extremely long and very narrow petals.

After the first frosty Autumn weather has killed most other flowers, you can still pick a bouquet of mums.

Culture _____

Chrysanthemums like full sun, a rich sandy soil, and a generous amount of water.



FERNS **(from many parts of** **the world)**

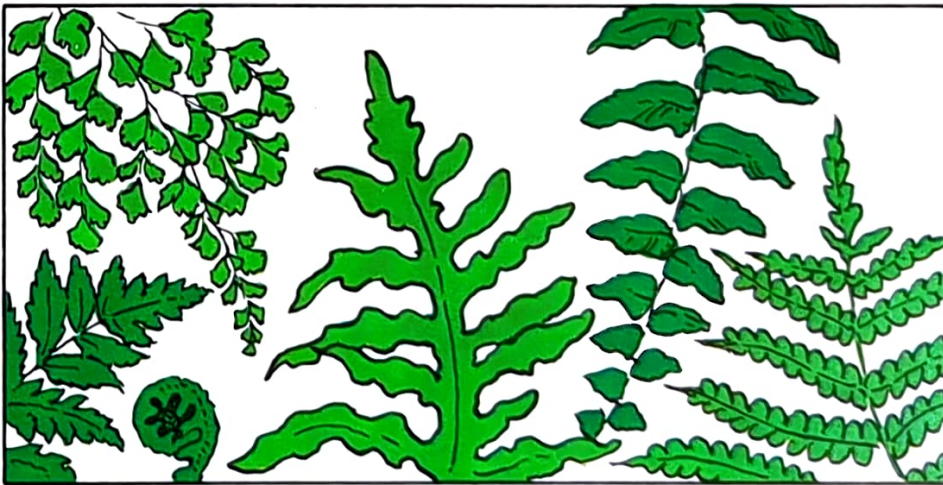
Millions of years ago ferns were growing on the earth. They were among the very first plants. Today some 12,000 different kinds flourish almost everywhere except in the Arctic or the Antarctic.

One of the fascinating things about plants is that you can raise one that has only recently been developed by seedsmen so that it is practically brand-new; or you can grow one whose history dates back before the time of the dinosaurs, as does the ferns.

The young fronds of many ferns are tightly coiled at the top. They are called "fiddleheads". It is interesting in the Spring to watch them gradually unfold into beautiful new fronds.

If there is a moist, shady area in your yard or garden where flowers won't grow, you might try the Cinnamon fern or the Christmas fern, or one or two others. Seed catalogues often list the most satisfactory ferns for outdoor gardens.

Other ferns, like the Boston fern, are usually raised as indoor plants. Indoor plants do not mind being outdoors for the summer, but most outdoor ferns do not like to come indoors for the Winter.





OUTDOOR POOLS

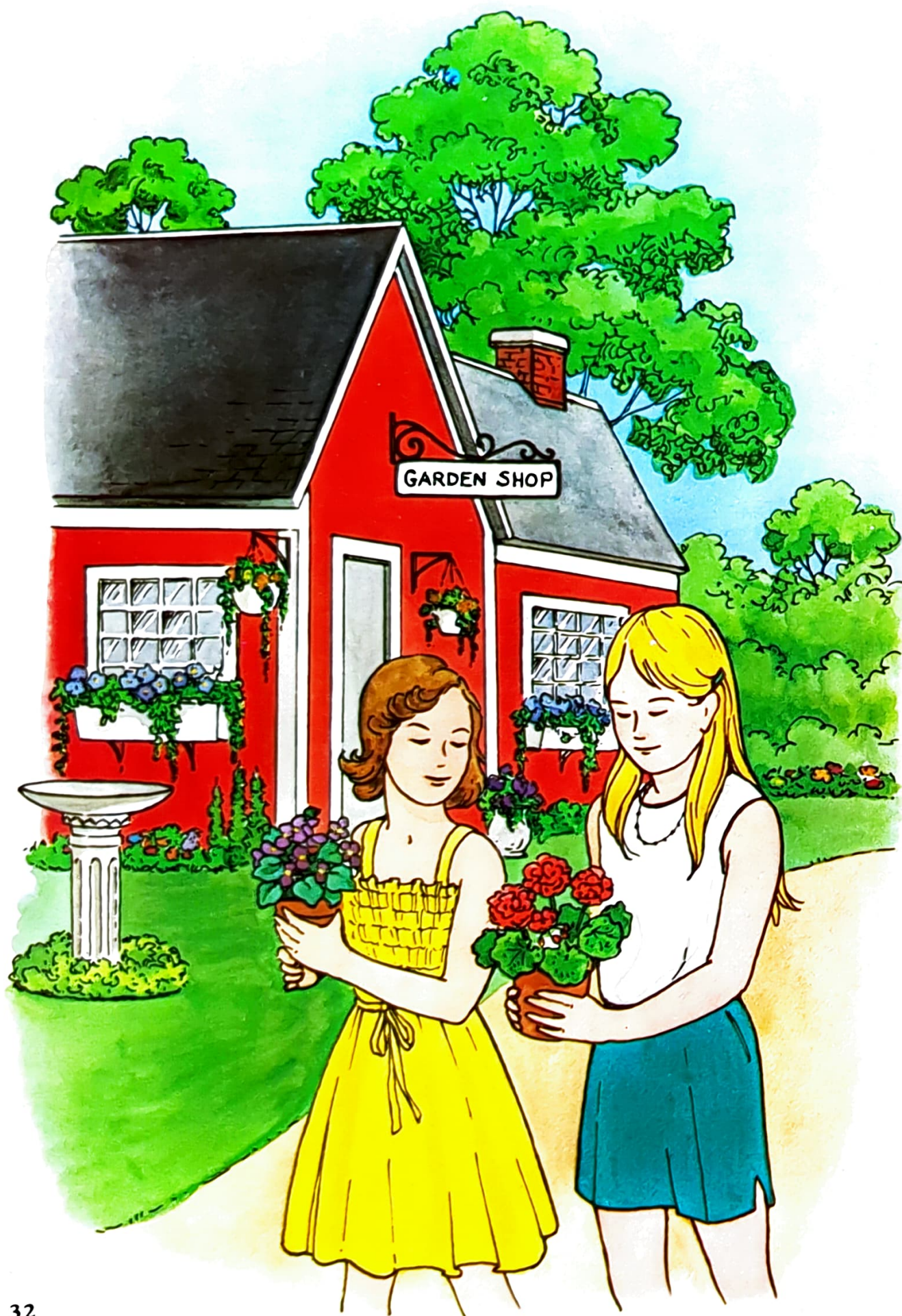
Outdoor pools can give a whole new look to gardening (but if there is a toddler in the family a pool is not recommended). There are garden shops that specialize in Water Gardens, and their catalogue will tell you all about pools, aquatic plants, fish, snails, etc.

A pool holding 50 gallons of water is big enough for water lilies, an aquatic plant such as a taro, a few goldfish and "pond snails." Goldfish eat mosquito larvae, and snails help to keep the pool clean.



Water lilies should be planted in pots 10" or more across and set in a pool with about 6" of water over them. They need 6 hours a day of sunshine in order to bloom.

Ferns look well beside a pool. The aquatic plant called Parrot Feathers is delicate and pretty trailing on the water.



RECORD *of my* PLANTS

TYPE OF PLANT

DATE BOUGHT

[illegible][illegible]

INTRODUCTION TO VEGETABLE GARDENING

Unless you have the ambition to be a real farmer, there's no need to have a big vegetable garden. Just a small garden plot will do, with a few of the basic vegetables that are the easiest to grow, such as beans, radishes, lettuce or tomatoes.

Even if you live in an apartment, you could try growing a few vegetables in a large tub or two. Use one of the growing mediums available in garden shops and some of the new midget vegetables.

Fresh vegetables from the garden taste best of all. Then, too, there's a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that you have actually grown them yourself.

It's a bit discouraging to go out in the morning and find that rabbits have nibbled at the vegetables and birds have pecked at the strawberries. A netting spread over the strawberries, however, will stop the birds, and strips of aluminum foil hung from strings may help to scare off the rabbits. There are insect pests, too, but the sprays used to discourage those are best left to older gardeners.

Some people grow marigolds among vegetables to discourage insects. It's worth a try, because if it doesn't work, you'll still have the marigolds to enjoy! Don't forget that some insects, such as dragonflies and ladybugs, are helpful because they feed on destructive insects.

Perhaps you would like a very *small* vegetable garden on the kitchen window sill, if it is sunny there! Parsley or cress "kits" are available with everything you need, including tray, growing medium, seeds and instructions.

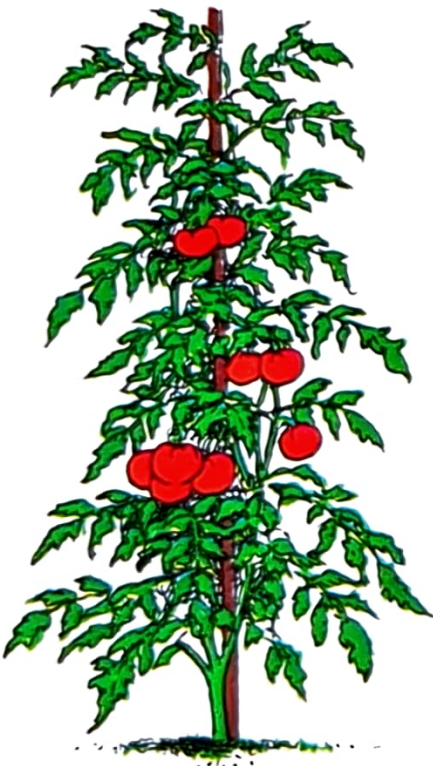
A wooden bowl of fresh vegetables in the kitchen can be as interesting and colorful as a flower arrangement.



TOMATOES

Tomatoes are among the most popular of home-grown vegetables. Maybe you don't like vegetables — much — but they really do taste good when you grow them yourself. Tomatoes are a good vegetable to start with, because almost anyone can grow tomatoes, almost anywhere.

You could start seeds indoors on a sunny window sill about 6 to 8 weeks before planting time. Use a packaged sowing mix, or plant the seeds in the cubes or pellets described in seed catalogues. If you don't have a few healthy, husky plants by planting time (which means when nighttime temperatures are 60° F or more) you can always go to a garden shop where a lot of other gardeners will be buying tomato plants, too!



Growing hints

There are many different types of tomatoes. Some plants produce huge tomatoes weighing well over one pound apiece. Other plants bear tiny bite-sized fruit. Home gardeners will probably have better luck with the varieties that are most common.

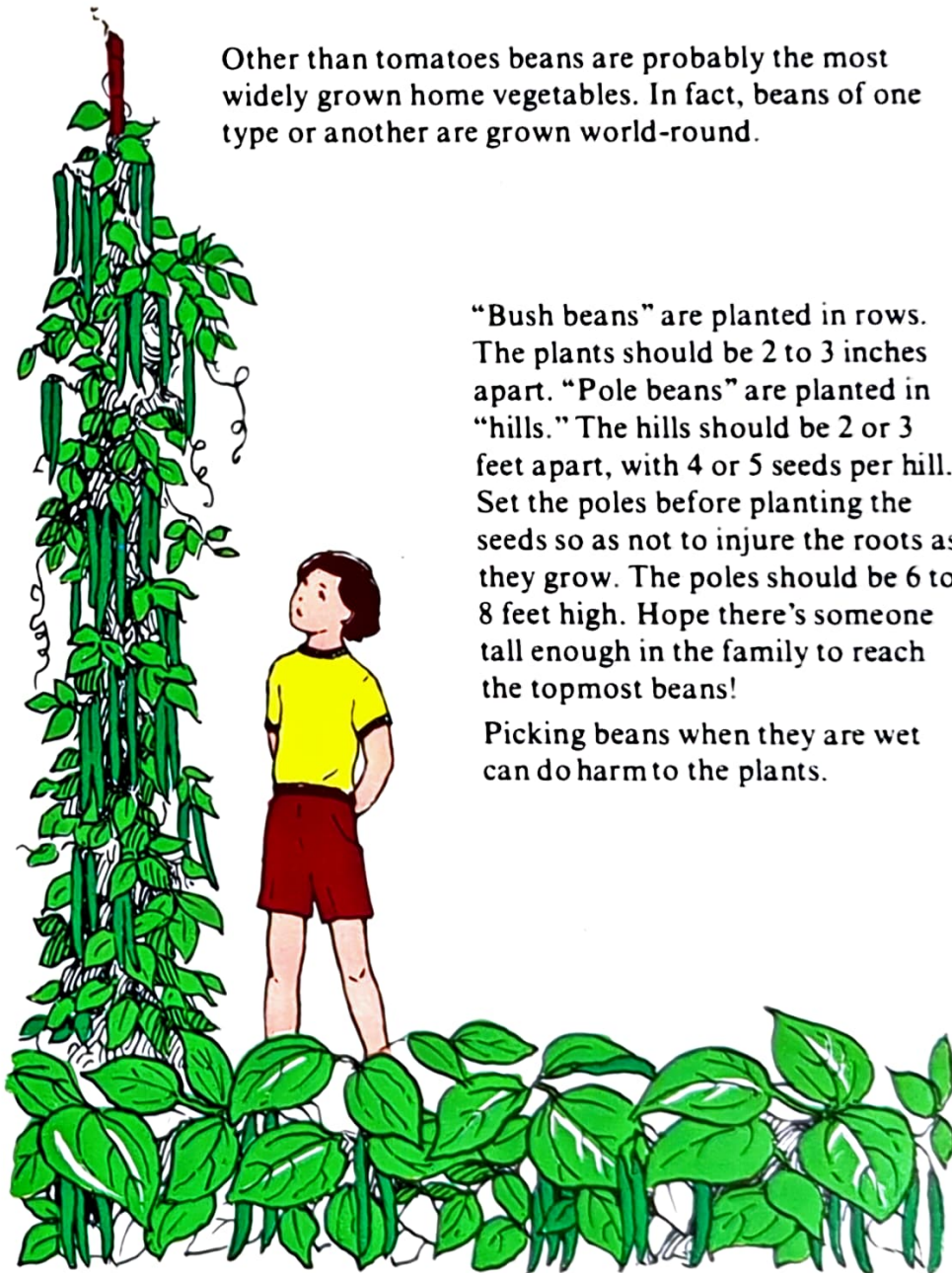
Plant tomatoes deep in the soil. Give them plenty of room. Tie plants to stakes, or use "tomato cages" as they grow. Water well during dry periods.

BEANS

Growing hints

Beans grow under almost any conditions, but do best when soil is well drained and warm.

Other than tomatoes beans are probably the most widely grown home vegetables. In fact, beans of one type or another are grown world-round.



"Bush beans" are planted in rows. The plants should be 2 to 3 inches apart. "Pole beans" are planted in "hills." The hills should be 2 or 3 feet apart, with 4 or 5 seeds per hill. Set the poles before planting the seeds so as not to injure the roots as they grow. The poles should be 6 to 8 feet high. Hope there's someone tall enough in the family to reach the topmost beans!

Picking beans when they are wet can do harm to the plants.

CORN

(Native to the Americas)

Almost everyone likes to eat corn — perhaps because corn is more fun to eat than other vegetables.

If there isn't room enough in the family garden for corn, which needs a lot of space, maybe there are community garden plots on the outskirts of your town where you can grow some.

Corn should be harvested when the ears are plump, and the kernels are full-grown but still soft and milky. The tassels will have turned brown at this time. Corn is at its best for only a very few days; the quicker the time between the cornfield and the kettle, the better it tastes. Once it is picked, corn rapidly loses its flavor and tenderness.

Growing hints

Wait until the soil is warm and danger of frost is past before planting corn. Well-drained, sandy loam is best. Rows of corn should be about three feet apart.



RADISHES

Even if you don't like radishes, you might find them fun to grow. They are fine for the "can't wait" gardener since they can be planted very early in the Spring. The seeds germinate in 4 to 5 days, and that is when the tiny plants pop up through the soil. It takes about 3 weeks longer for them to become edible, maybe 5 weeks depending on the variety. Sow seeds in the Spring and again in late Summer.



When radishes are thinly sliced, their white roots and red skins add an appetizing note to salads. When cut into rosette forms, they make nice garnishes for many dishes.

Growing hints Radishes can be planted 2 to 4 weeks ahead of the frost-free date in your area.

GREEN PEPPERS

Growing hints Green peppers need warm weather; some humidity; well-drained soil. Leave about 2 feet between plants.

Green peppers are often grown in home gardens. The glossy green fruit are good as a raw vegetable and are used in many recipes.

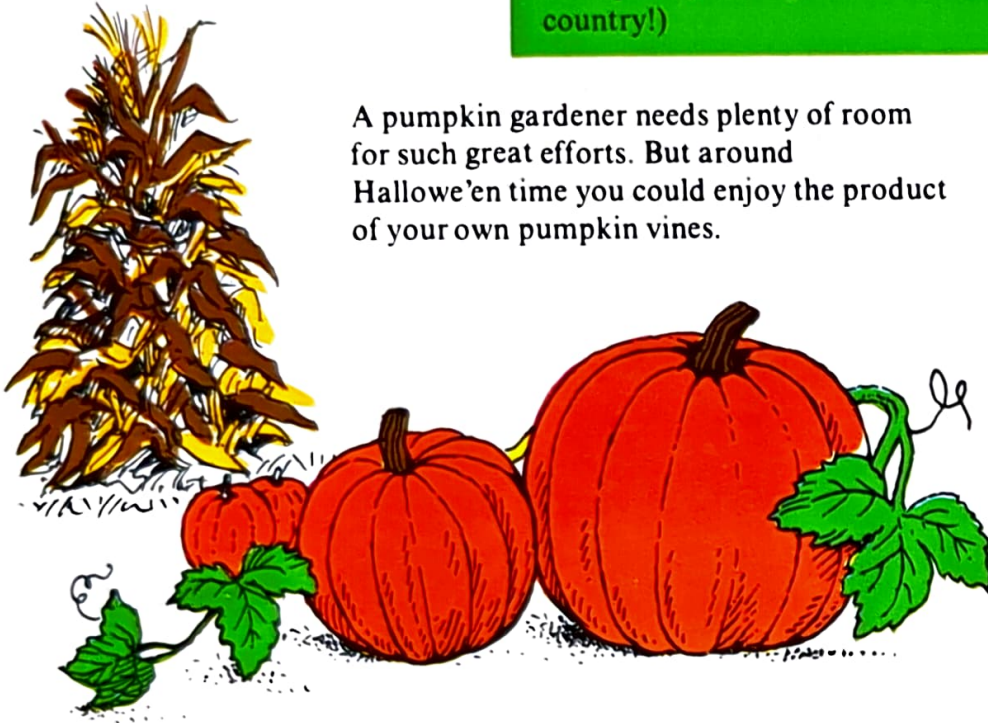


PUMPKINS

Growing hints

Plant 5 or 6 seeds in hills as soon as soil is warm. Hills should be 5 to 7 feet apart. (Fine if you live in the country!)

A pumpkin gardener needs plenty of room for such great efforts. But around Hallowe'en time you could enjoy the product of your own pumpkin vines.



Gourds, though definitely not vegetables, might be fun to grow for their interesting shapes and colors, or for table decorations around Thanksgiving time.

Growing hints

Plant where seeds are to grow as soon as soil is warm in the Spring. Choose a sunny location.



LETTUCE



Lettuce is almost always satisfactory in the home garden. It can be planted as soon as the soil is fit for digging in the Spring. Certain varieties that don't mind hot weather can give you another crop later in the season.

If you think lettuce is only so-so, consider the fact that it was food fit for kings (Persian kings) in 550 B.C.

Growing hints

The location should be sunny with rich, moist soil and good drainage.

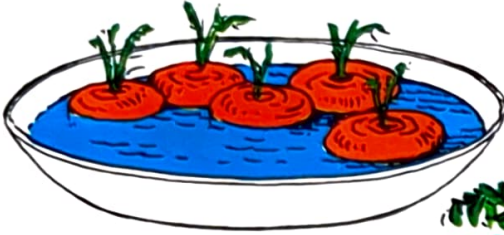
MIDGET VEGETABLES

If you have only a very small space for a vegetable garden, or if your vegetable gardening is limited to some sort of container on the patio, or in a sunny corner of the yard or a balcony, you might try midget vegetables. There are 3" carrots, cabbages with 4" heads, miniature types of lettuce, eggplant, squash, and even corn.

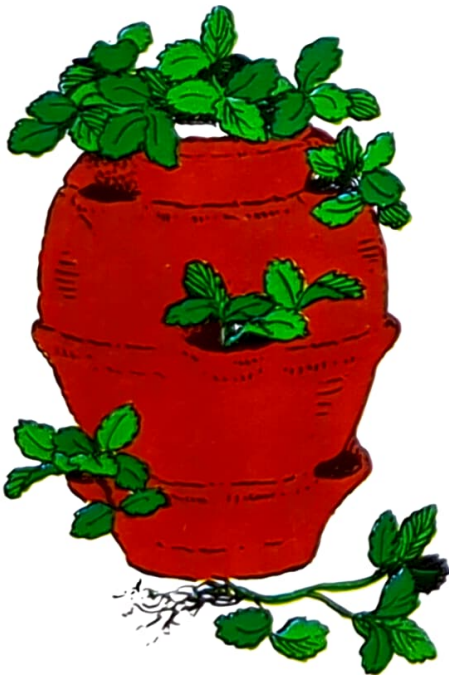


TRY THESE FOR FUN

Do you know how you can have a pretty dish garden without growing seeds or buying plants? Next time your Mom is preparing carrots for dinner ask for a thick slice from a few of the tops (maybe 5 or 6). Place the tops in a shallow dish of water. Soon they will sprout again and produce fresh new greenery. The same can be done with beets or turnips.



The little watery "grove" would be a good place for two or three miniature ducks or a small china turtle.



For a sun porch, a bay window, patio or a garden, a "strawberry jar" can be decorative and interesting. Small strawberry jars have three openings for plants; larger ones have several holes. The jar needs clean sand or pebbles for drainage. Fill with packaged soil mix.

Put strawberry plants in the openings and in the top. You could also fill the pot with different types of Hen and Chickens.

HELPFUL HINTS

Here are a few hints for growing house plants and outdoor plants. They won't guarantee success because there is so much more to learn, both from experience and by reading, but they should help.

A good thing to remember — the top of the TV is not a satisfactory place for plants. It is too warm.

Sunshine that is too hot can sunburn plants and turn leaves brown.

When you plant seedlings in the garden, you should use a ruler. There are usually directions to tell you how far apart plants should be spaced. It is better to measure than to guess.

Transplant seedlings on a cool, cloudy day, not on a hot, sunny day. They won't dry out as quickly. Handle seedlings carefully without injuring the roots. Place them in soil that is moist and crumbly, never dry, powdery or muddy.

Some plants like full sun; others like semi-shade. Some need a semi-dry location such as a rock garden, others need a moist area. They won't do well unless their location is suitable.

It is interesting to browse through a seed catalogue. Many strange and beautiful flowers are pictured there, as well as those that you already know. If you are daring, you might want to try a packet or two of new and unusual seeds. You may have a great success, or you may end up with an empty spot in your garden. Don't let this bother you, though. Just transplant some other annuals into that area.

You will have a greater chance of success if you stay with the old tried and true favorites, such as petunias or zinnias or marigolds.

HELPFUL HINTS

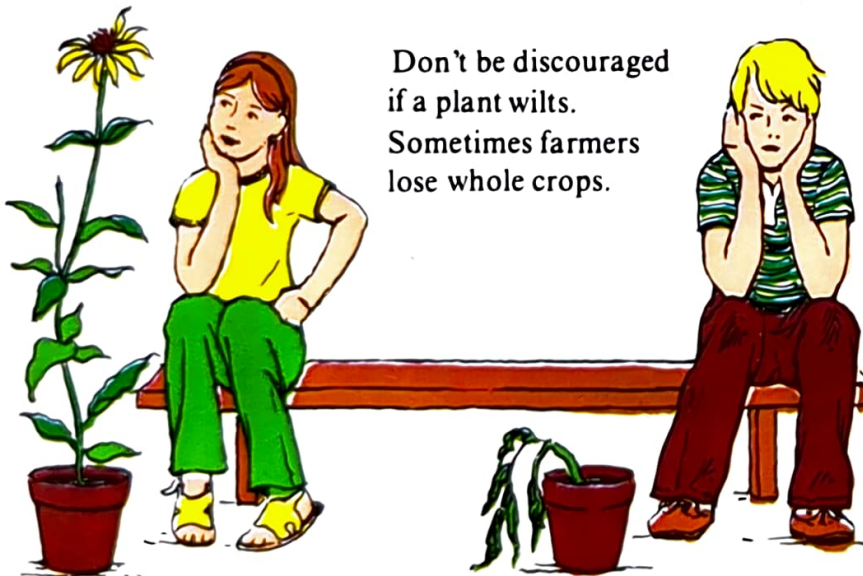
Watering too often may do more harm than not watering often enough. Plants don't like to stand in water (unless they are aquatic plants). After watering be sure to empty the saucers under the plants.

Plants have to breathe, just as people and animals do. They breathe through their leaves and also through their roots. If they have to breathe through water—logged soil they will begin to wilt.

Remember, seedlings need room in which to grow.



Many plants benefit from being “pinched back” when young. Otherwise they may become “leggy”.



Miscellaneous

Just imagine how vast the plant family is! Did you know that trees belong to the plant family? Plants can range from a 300' tall sequoia down to a miniature geranium 1" high.

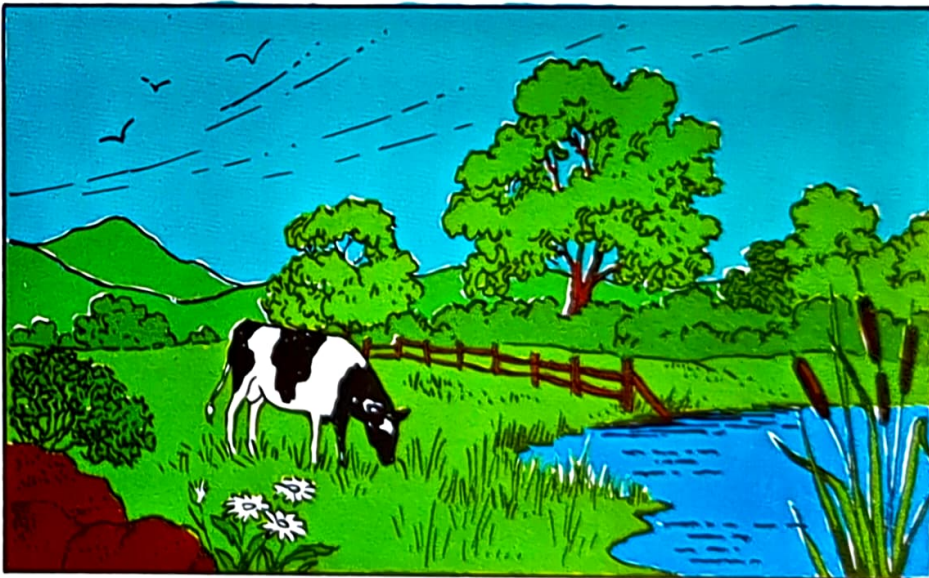
Other members of the tremendously large plant family include those that grow in ponds and rivers and in the ocean. Among the plants that live in the ocean are the common kelp which may have fronds as long as 200' and the floating "phytoplankton," most of which are microscopic.

Neither people nor animals could exist for very long without plants. Try to imagine a meal in which vegetation is not used in any way.

Even if you were to eat only a hamburger, the beef would come from an animal which had been living on hay and corn and other plants.

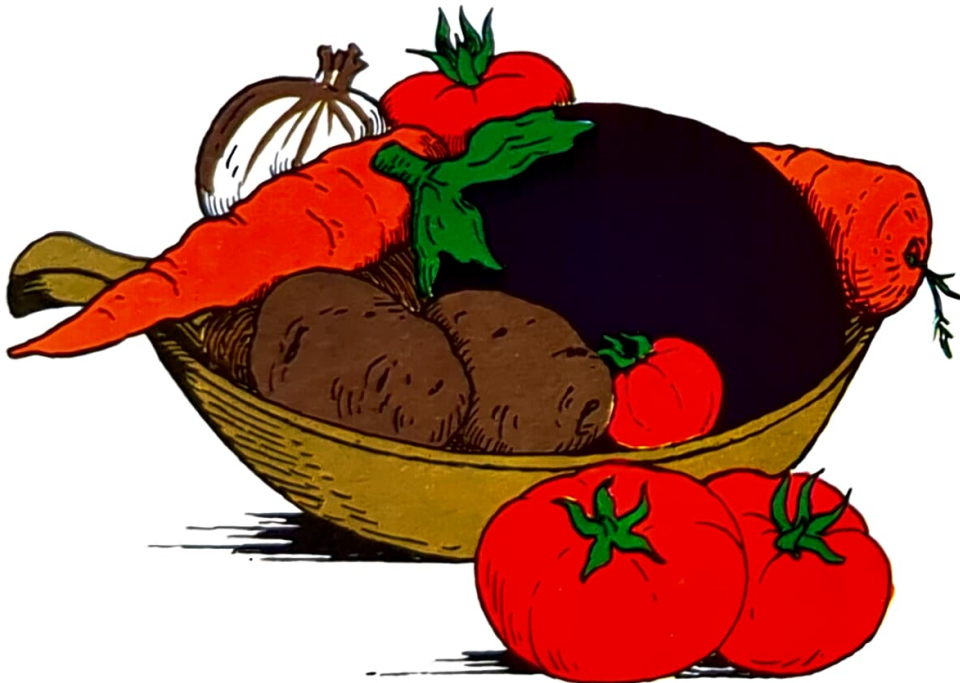
People depend on plants. Lumber, cloth, medicines, paper and rubber are among the items that have plants as their source. Then, too, people need flowers and greenery to help beautify their homes and surroundings.

Your houseplants, your flowers and vegetables in the garden may seem more important to you when you realize that they are a small but very real part of the great and marvelous world of plants.



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NOTES

(Beans) Soak seeds in water overnight, Then put wet paper towels in a glass and push the seeds ^{down} between the glass and the towels.







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